Oil and Natural Gas Exploration

*100. SHRI T.R. ZELIANG: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) The details of projects undertaken by ONGC to explore oil and natural gas in different parts of the country;

(b) whether any progress has been made in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) have undertaken exploration for oil and gas in the country as per the Tenth Plan exploration programme which includes the work programme of all basins under its operation both onshore and offshore, including deepwaters.

Tenth Plan exploration is continuing in the acreages held by ONGC in onland areas of Cambay, Assam & Assam Arakan, Krishna-Godavari basin, Cauvery basin, Rajasthan, Himalayan Foreland, Ganga Valley, Bengal, Vindhyan, Satpura, South Rewa and offshore areas of Kutch-Saurashtra, Mumbai, Kerala Konkan, Krishna Godavari, Cauvery Mahanadi, Andaman, Bengal Offshore basins.

The Tenth Plan work programme includes acquiring 35,286 Ground Line Kilometre/Line Kilometre (GLK/LK) of 2D and 34,834 Square Kilometre of 3D seismic and drilling of 561 exploratory wells.

(b) During the first two and a half years of the Tenth Plan, as on 1.10.2004, ONGC has acquired 42,645 GLK/LK of 2D and 36,825 Square Kilometre of 3D seismic and drilled 332 exploratory wells in producing basins, deepwater and frontier areas including non-producing basins. As a result, it has made 12 finds and has established 232.88 Million Metric Tonne (MMT) Oil + Oil Equivalent of Gas (O+OEG) of in-place hydrocarbons, from new finds, new pools and extension areas.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

New Destinations of Air India

433. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Air India is working out a composite proposal for fleet acquisition at an estimated cost of Rs. 20,000 crores;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Air India will require eighteen aircrafts for Air India Express to be launched in April 2005;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Air India plans for flying to new destinations; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Air India has prepared a revised fleet plan for Air India and Air India Express which, *inter-alia*, includes proposal for acquisition of 18 aircraft for operations by Air India Express.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Air India and Air India Express propose to operate to several additional international destinations which include new services/ points in USA, Canada, UK, Italy, Russia, Korea, China, Taiwan, Australia, Nigeria, Mauritius, South Africa and Gulf.

Airport Eeconomic Regulatory Authority

434. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to constitute Airport Economic Regulatory Authority;

(b) if so, what would be its composition and the main functions proposed to be assigned to it; and

(c) by when it is likely to start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) The proposal for setting up of an Airport Economic Regulatory Authority (AERA) is under consideration of the Government.

Air Service Between Kanpur and Delhi

435. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 143 given in the Rajya Sabha on 22nd July, 2003 and state:

(a) the steps taken by Government to operate daily flight services between Kanpur and Delhi and *vice-versa* so far; and

(b) by when it is likely to be started?